

## SOUTH AFRICAN RADIO LEAGUE NEWS FOR SUNDAY 18 JULY 2021

Good morning and welcome to the weekly news bulletin of the South African Radio League read by ..... [your name, call sign and QTH]

The South African Radio League broadcasts a news bulletin each Sunday in Afrikaans and English at 08:15 and 08:30 Central African Time respectively on HF and various VHF and UHF repeaters around the country. The bulletin is relayed on Echolink by Johan, ZS6JPL. The audio bulletins can be downloaded from the League website at [www.sarl.org.za](http://www.sarl.org.za) while the text bulletin can be downloaded from <https://sarlnwsbulletin.wordpress.com/>. To join the MailChimp bulletin mailing list, send an e-mail to the SARL Secretary.

In the news today:

THE YOTA CONTEST AND THE ZS2 SPRINT TODAY

SCOUTS DOING THE CLASS B RAE COURSE

and

YOUTH ON THE AIR CAMPERS ENJOY SUCCESSFUL ISS CONTACT

Stay tuned for more information on these and other interesting news items.

We begin this bulletin with the news of Silent Keys:

It is with deep regret that we announce that the key of Gert Byliefeldt, ZS4GB went silent on Tuesday 25 May 2021. Gert was a proud member of the SARL and passionate about being a radio amateur. We extend our sincere condolences to his son Benny Byliefeldt. ZS4QB, family and friends.

The SARL News Team has received unconfirmed reports that the keys of four radio amateurs have gone silent. They are Dirk, ZS2D; PJ van Blerk, ZS6PVB; Jan Engelbrecht, ZS6JE and Deon, ZS6OM. This is all information that the team has at the moment. We extend our condolences to the families of these radio amateurs.

PAUSE

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THE YOTA CONTEST AND THE ZS2 SPRINT TODAY

The second session of the 2021 Youngsters on the Air contest will take place from 10:00 to 21:59 UTC (12:00 to 23:59 CAT) today Sunday 18 July. Radio amateurs are invited to allow young operators to operate their stations during this upcoming event with CW and phone activity. The full details of the contest can be found on [www.ham-yota.com/contest/](http://www.ham-yota.com/contest/).

The ZS2 Sprint is a fun activity where Southern African stations try to work as many ZS2 stations as possible during the hour long event. It is a CW and phone activity on 40 metres and is on the air from 14:00 to 15:00 UTC (16:00 to 17:00 CAT) this afternoon. The exchange is an RS or RST report and your provincial or country abbreviation. Logs, in ADIF, Cabrillo or MS Excel format must be sent to [contest@peham.co.za](mailto:contest@peham.co.za) by 23:59 CAT on Friday 23 July 2021. The rules are on page 73 of the 2021 Blue Book.

#### SCOUTS DOING THE CLASS B RAE COURSE

Richard Hooper, ZS6RKE the Troop Scouter of the Sandringham Scouts told SARL News that the Sandringham Scout Group, ZS6SSG will be running a Class B RAE course for Scouts, starting on Saturday 31 July. The course will run for 8 weeks using various virtual platforms, because of the current lockdown restrictions, until they can run the final day for HF assessments.

Currently there are 10 Scouts signed up to do the course and the exam. The Scouts are from the Sandringham Scout Group and the Jan Smuts Scout Group with hopefully a few more from the Halfway House Scout Group. These are the first Scouts to do the course after getting the Amateur Radio Interest Badge and Amateur Radio Operator Badges approved and finalised by Scouts South Africa.

#### THE SARL WEDNESDAY 80 M CLUB SPRINT

The fourth leg of the SARL Wednesday 80 m Club Sprint is on the air from 17:30 to 18:30 UTC (19:30 to 20:30 CAT) on Wednesday 21 July 2021. The exchange is a RS or RST report, the name of your club and your 4-character grid square. Log sheets in MS Excel format must be sent to [zs4bfn@mweb.co.za](mailto:zs4bfn@mweb.co.za) by 23:59 CAT on Monday 26 July. The Contest Committee cannot be held responsible for the propagation conditions.

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#### YOUTH ON THE AIR CAMPERS ENJOY SUCCESSFUL ISS CONTACT

The first Youth on the Air (YOTA) camp for young radio amateurs in the Americas wraps up on Friday in West Chester, Ohio. Among other activities, the campers have been operating special event station W8Y from both the National Voice of America Museum of Broadcasting and from the camp hotel. "Things are going really well," Camp Director Neil Rapp, WB9VPG said on Wednesday evening. The earlier launch of a balloon carrying an amateur radio payload was successful, he said, and after pinpointing where the payload landed some 3 hours away, the campers were able to retrieve the package, thanks to some understanding landowners. Rapp said the balloon reached approximately 100 000 feet or 30 480 metres. Rapp said that the campers got along well from the first day and problems in general have been few and minor.

Several of the approximately two dozen campers got to ask questions of ISS crew member Akihiko Hoshide, KE5DNI during a Tuesday Amateur Radio on

the International Space Station (ARISS) contact. Responding to a query posed by Graham, KO4FJK, Akihiko Hoshide said the most interesting things he has seen from space included flying through an aurora and looking down at "shooting stars" from the ISS. He also said that the ISS crew was able to view a partial lunar eclipse from space. Another camper, Adam, KD9KIS wanted to know how often the ISS crew members use the onboard amateur station. Akihiko Hoshide said individual crew members may get on the radio every couple of weeks or so or as the opportunity arises.

"This ARISS contact is intended to inspire these young amateurs to learn more about communication using amateur satellites and making ARISS radio contacts," ARISS said this week in announcing the contact date. ARISS team member John Sygo, ZS6JON in South Africa served as the telebridge relay station for the late morning event, which was streamed live via YouTube.

#### MOTA - MINES ON THE AIR

Most people are familiar with IOTA, SOTA, POTA, etc. Less well known, however, is MOTA or Mines on the Air. On the SSA site, Stephan Leeman, SM5YRA writes, "The activity has its origins in the USA, it is Johnny, WJ0NF from Colorado who started it all. Here in Europe, however, there is little activity, but I have heard some stations from, amongst others, France that were running. Maybe it is a fun idea to activate a mine during the summer? We have a lot in Sweden!" You can find more information at <https://minesontheair.com/about-mota>

#### PROPAGATION REPORT

Hannes Coetzee, ZS6BZP, reports that the solar activity is expected to be at low levels. There are currently two sunspot regions with simple magnetic configurations visible and no major solar flaring activity is expected. If you want to do your own frequency predictions, the expected effective sunspot number for the week will be around four. The 17 to 30 m bands will during the late afternoons provide some DX fun. Please visit the website [spaceweather.sansa.org.za](http://spaceweather.sansa.org.za) for further information.

Finally, a diary of some upcoming events:

Today – the YOTA Contest and the ZS2 Sprint

20 July – the PEARS and Border ARC meetings

21 July – the SARL 80 m Club Sprint

24 July – the Cape Town Arc meeting

24 and 25 July – the Islands on the Air Contest

27 July – the Secunda ARC meeting

28 and 29 July – the Delta Aquarids meteor showers

1 August – the SARL HF Phone Contest  
9 August – National Woman’s Day and the SARL YL Sprint  
12 August – International Youth Day  
12 and 13 August – the Perseids meteor showers  
14 August – the SARL Youth Sprint  
15 August – the SARL HF Digital Contest  
21 and 22 August – the International Lighthouse and Lightship Weekend

To conclude our bulletin, a recap of our main news story:

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This concludes our bulletin for this morning.

We invite clubs and individuals to submit news items of interest to radio amateurs and shortwave listeners, in both English and Afrikaans, if possible, by following the News Inbox link on the South African Radio League web page. News items to be included in the bulletin should reach the news team no later than the Thursday preceding the bulletin date.

You are welcome to join us every Sunday morning for the weekly radio programme, Amateur Radio Today at 10:00 CAT. The programme can be heard on VHF and UHF repeaters countrywide and on 7 082 kHz lower side-band by courtesy of Louis, ZS5LP. A rebroadcast by Andy, ZS6ADY, can be heard on Monday evenings at 19:30 CAT on 3 620 kHz.

We welcome your signal reports, comments, and suggestions; please send these by e-mail to [artoday@sarl.org.za](mailto:artoday@sarl.org.za).

You have listened to a news bulletin compiled by Andy Cairns, ZS6ADY, edited by Paul Johnson, ZS1S and read by .....

From the news team, best wishes for the week ahead.